GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5401
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
UNUTILISED RAIN WATER
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of unutilized rain water wasted to the sea every year; and

(b) the action proposed by the Government to attain sustainable development of water resources in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) India receives an average annual precipitation of 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) which alsoincludes snow- melt. Out of this, 3,000 BCM occurs during monsoon.As per the latest assessment of the Central Water Commission in 1993, the average annual flow in the river-systems of the country is assessed at 1869 BCM.Water resources development including construction of storages for utilization of water is taken up by the State Government as per their own priorities. Upto 1995, a live storage capacity of 177 BCM has been created by construction of large dams in the country. Besides, projects to add an additional storage capacity of about 75 BCM are under construction and for 132 BCMare under planning. With the help of these storages and other minor irrigation schemes an irrigation potential of 90 Million hectare (Mha) has been created upto the end of the Eighth Plan against the ultimate irrigation potential of 139.9 Mha in the country.

As a long term measure, for the sustainable development, National Water Development Agencyestablished in 1982 by Ministry of Water Resources have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking between various peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins. The Agency has completed pre-feasibility studies of all the 17 water transfer links under the peninsular rivers development component and 14 water transfer links under Himalayan rivers development component. Feasibility studies of 5 water transfer links have also been completed.

For sustainable development of water resources in the country, Government of India is also promoting rain water harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministryof Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the state Government and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge. Assistance is also extended to State Governments under Command Area Development Programme forbridging the gap between potential created and utilized. Further, the Government of India has been extending financial assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme since 1996-97 to State Governments to help them complete early the ongoing irrigation projects.